RFP-NIH-NIAID-DMID-03-45
Amendment #3 (Questions & Answers)

This Amendment provides questions submitted by potential Offerors and the responses provided by the NIAID. The responses are offered for information only and do not modify or become part of this solicitation. This Amendment will be updated at least weekly to add any further questions and their related responses. All potential offerors are advised to refer back to this Amendment #3 for additional Q&A.

"Administrative Resource for Biodefense Proteomic Centers"

Amendment to Solicitation No.:	NIH-NIAID-DMID-03-45
Amendment No.:	**Three (3) (1st Posting)(Questions 1-10)**
Amendment Date:	March 22, 2003
RFP Issue Date	December 12, 2002
Proposal Due Date/Time:	**May 15, 2003; at 4:00 P.M., EST (UNCHANGED)**
Issued By:	Barbara A. Shadrick Contracting Officer CMB/DEA/NIAID/NIH/DHHS 6700-B Rockledge Drive, Room 2230, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7612
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Offerors must acknowledge receipt of this Amendment #3, for each posting, on each copy of the proposal submitted. Failure to receive your acknowledgment of this Amendment may result in the rejection of your proposal.

The hour and date specified for receipt of proposals HAS NOT been extended.

The following questions and answers are provided concerning a number of inquiries we have received for the above numbered acquisition:

Question 1 What does "publicly accessible" mean? [Page 3, background, (1): Design, develop, and maintain a publicly accessible website; Page 4, (1(c)) (…website that contains): A publicly accessible, searchable database]

A web site that the public can access and that does not have any restrictions.

Question 2 . The web site will be publicly accessible, but the research data may be sensitive. Do you anticipate requiring multiple levels of secured access to particular sections of the web site and database?

At this point we do not anticipate requiring multiple levels of secured access to a particular section of the web site and database. We cannot be explicit at this time. There is a possibility that "sensitive" information may require different levels of secured access. Even if the Government does not require containment of "sensitive' information related to Biodefense, the contractor may need to partition data into different sections of the database – for example: restrict access to data deposited directly from the proteomics centers until the data can be validated – data will then be released into a section that is accessible by the research community at large.

Question 3 What kinds of proteomics analysis tools are envisioned? Are the analysis tools simple OLAP tools that support statistical reviews of the data or are they more specifically tied to the experimental platforms and the application domain? Is this a requirement to develop new analytic applications or to integrate existing COTS or analysis software developed at the research sites? [Page 5, Item 1.e (…website that contains): Data management and analysis tools for proteomics applications]

The RFP is very careful not to define the tools for proteomics application, since this will be recommended by proteomics sites and the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The Offeror may want to give examples on what they have the capacity to provide or obtain from sources.

Question 4 What volume of existing data in terms of time (years/months) from the participating Proteomics Research Program systems need to be integrated at the time of final system implementation of the project?

As this is a new acquisition there is no existing data to be incorporated into databases/systems at the start of this project. It is important to realize that data will be generated during the course of the five years and the data will need to be incorporated continuously.

Question 5 What will be the frequency of data feed from the participating Proteomics Research Program systems?

It is difficult to predict the frequency of the data, since the data is generated by research done by the Proteomics Research Program

Question 6 Will users submit SQL queries directly to the database or will everything be facilitated by a GUI?

Both.

Question 7 What is the exact role of the SAC? Item 7 in the SOW addresses the formation of the committee, but we are uncertain as to which decisions the committee will actually be involved in. For example, will the SAC be expected to help define and construct the SOPs? Will they be expected to be involved in the development of the ontology? How about for the Proteomics Research Sites? To what degree will they be involved in producing these works?

The SAC's role is to provide expert advice to the NIAID on the general direction of the funded proteomics projects, including the progress, achievements, and future goals of each Proteomics Center, as well as the Administrative Center.

Question 8 To what degree would you expect the contractor (without the SAC or Research Sites) to propose, develop, or improve proteomics research methodologies?

The Proteomics Centers will be responsible for management and oversight of their own research projects. The roles and responsibilities of the Administrative Center are designated in RFP-03-45, and do not include development of proteomics technologies.

Question 9 Can you more specifically explain the implications of the clause relating to Intellectual Property (IP) under the database development section? Specifically, does this clause refer to IP that we might develop in the course of establishing the database, or is there some other meaning? Our assumption is that the purpose of this clause is to ensure that access to the listed items (data, protocols, reagents, etc.) is not encumbered in any way by IP claims that we may wish to make.

The Contractor shall administer their patent rights in a manner that will not conflict with the central goal of this contract, which is to make the data, techniques, protocols, reagents, and products (i.e. targets) generated by the Proteomics Centers freely available to the research community.

The Offeror may file patents for software, analysis tools, etc that they develop under this contract. However, the same Federal Acquisition Regulation clause, 52.227-14, Rights in Data –General applies to all IP developed under the planned contract. Please refer to the "Transition Plan" on page 7 of the RFP, paragraph 9.(c), Materials to be Transferred, for a list of materials that shall be transferred to Government.